

#11/BP3 11/20/02



ORIGINAL FILED

PATENT
Atty. Docket No.: RNS-001
(7400/4)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Spann
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/757,255 ART UNIT: 3634
FILING DATE: January 9, 2001 EXAMINER: J. E. Novosad
TITLE: TOOL HOLDER

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Final Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 27, 2002 ("the Office Action"), for which the period set for response expires on November 27, 2002, Applicant respectfully submits the following Preliminary Amendment along with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") for the above-identified patent application. Prior to continued examination, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and consider the accompanying remarks. Appropriate fees and forms for the RCE and extra claims are submitted herewith. Applicant believes that no extension-of-time or other fee is required for this Preliminary Amendment to be entered and considered. However, please consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension, if one is required, and a conditional authorization to charge any related extension or other fees necessary for entry of this paper to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and passage of the case to allowance.

Please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows: